This summer, various educators participated in the 2020 Discover Today's Red River Watershed Institute held on the campus of the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton. The week-long educational event provided numerous activities for non-formal and formal teachers to learn about and understand current watershed management and water resource issues on the Red River and surrounding areas.

Adhering to the ND Smart Restart guidelines and social distancing practices, the institute and the Water Commission provided participants with real-world and user-friendly classroom instruction from trained facilitators and resource professionals. The event also utilized various online educational information and virtual resources.

Participants spent the week exploring Project WET (Water Education Today) based curriculum in conjunction with the Water Commission’s North Dakota Water Education Program. Project WET is an award-winning, non-profit water education program that promotes appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids. Free online resources such as discoverwater.org and projectwet.org, provide water experiments, lesson plans, interactive learning activities, and other instructional tools.

Teachers attending the institute, completed an online certification for Project WET, listened to various presentations regarding the Red River, enjoyed a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Chainkapa Zoo, studied the importance of water throughout history, learned about the North Dakota Farm to Table program, and engaged in many other activities.

The Discover Today’s Watershed Institute is an annual event held each July in a different watershed. Due to the uniqueness of each watershed in North Dakota, no two institutes are completely the same. This is why we see teachers returning year-after-year to expand their water knowledge and learn about new resources available for the classroom.

If you would like to learn more about the institute or North Dakota Water Education, email tinamharding@nd.gov, call (701) 328-4833, or visit the Water Commission’s website for more information.
WATER COMMISSION CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword puzzle below utilizing words that are commonly used at the State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer. (www.swc.nd.gov)

Across
3. The scientific study of the movement, distribution, and management of water.
4. A brass or metal disk in the ground that provides latitude, longitude, or orthometric height.
10. The administration and enforcement of water laws, rules, and policies that ensure water rights.
11. Any barrier constructed along a watercourse or an area that drains naturally to divert the flow of water.
12. A body of permeable rock which can contain or transmit groundwater.
13. Area of land where precipitation collects and drains off. Water Commissioners are appointed to eight of these in ND.
15. An area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and is subject to flooding.

Down
1. A process that aids precipitation formation by enhancing ice crystal or raindrop production in clouds.
2. Flood mitigation projects in northeastern ND which were developed to alleviate effects of flooding from Devils Lake.
3. A variety of Internet map servers with various themes of data sets.
6. A policy to support local sponsors in development of sustainable water-related projects in North Dakota.
7. Transports water to various communities for water supply and irrigation.
8. A group of people officially charged with a particular function. Our agency’s was created in 1937.
9. A real-time weather system operating at the Bowman and Stanley airports.
14. To examine and record the area and features of (an area of land) so as to construct a map, plan, or description.